of wholesale prices in 1985-86 will be lower than the previous two years.

**Pending cases relatin gto Labour Disputes**

992. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of pending cases relating to labour disputes before the Industrial Tribunals and the Labour Courts as on 31st December, 1985;

(b) what was the number of such disputes pending as on 31st December, 1983 and 31st December, 1984;

(c) what are the reasons for the accumulation of such cases; and

(d) what steps Government have taken for the speedy disposal of the pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (d) The number of cases pending before the Central Government Industrial Tribunal cum Labour Courts for the period under reference is as follows:—

| Period as on | |
|---|---|
| 31-12-1983 | 5565 |
| 31-12-1984 | 3969 |
| 31-12-1985 | 4670 |

The main reasons for accumulation of the cases are the increase in number of cases and the seeking of frequent adjournments by the parties concerned, etc. With a view to ensure speedier disposal of cases, monthly norms of disposal of disputes have been precribed and progress is monitored. Further, the Industial Disputes Act, 1947 has been amended so as to provide that an order referring an industrial dispute shall specify the period for submission of award by the Industrial Tribunal/ Labour Court and in respect of Industrial disputes connected with an individual workman and applications such period shall not exceed three months. The Industrial Disputes (Central) Rules, 1957 have also been amended to provide time frame for different stages to ensure speedy disposal. Two more Central Government Industrial Tribunal cum Labour Courts have been set up, one at Chandigarh in 1983 and the second at Kanpur in 1984. One additional Central Government Industrial Tribunal cum Labour Court has been sanctioned during the current financial year.

**Buffer stock of cotton**

993. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to build a buffer stock of cotton to check fall in prices and ensure a remunerative price to farmers;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what other steps Government propose to take to ensure a remunerative prices to the cotton growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Cotton Corporation of India undertakes price support operations so that cotton growers are assured of the minimum suppot prices fixed by the Government, wherever prices tend to fall below this level. Such prices are considered to be remunerative. The Government have released so far 10.00 lakh bales of long and extra-long staple cotton. 52000 bales of Bengal Deshi and 25,000 bales of Yellow Pickings for export during the current cotton season. Government have also announced a long term liberalised yarn export policy. These measures are expected to benefit the cotton growers.